

EISENHOWER FEAR ON U-2 REPORTED

Article Says He Had Doubts
on Flights From Start

An article in the current issue of Look magazine says that former President Dwight D. Eisenhower had expressed misgivings about reconnaissance flights over the Soviet Union long before Francis Gary Powers was shot down on May 4, 1960.

It says Mr. Eisenhower approved the U-2 flight program five years earlier, but expressed misgivings even then.

"If one of these planes is shot down," the article says he "recalled saying" at the meeting at which he was first told of the plan, "this is going to be on my head. I'm going to catch hell. The world will be in a mess."

The Look article was written by two Washington newspaper-

men, David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. It is a condensation from a forthcoming book "The U-2 Affair."

The article points out that the actual downing did come at a most inopportune time, just as Mr. Eisenhower was preparing for a summit conference in Paris with Premier Khrushchev, President de Gaulle and Prime Minister Macmillan. It led to disruption of the conference and renewed world tension.

Continued Misgivings

On other occasions, after the first briefing in 1955, the article says, Mr. Eisenhower expressed further misgivings about the program. But he was assured by the military and the Central Intelligence Agency that the information being obtained on the overflights was so valuable that the risk was worth while.

The President's advisers, the authors say, also were of the opinion that if a U-2 were shot

down, the Russians would not reveal its secrets to do so would demonstrate their vulnerability and their inability to intercept. The article gives an almost play-by-play account of the Power flight and its aftermath, including the misunderstanding in Washington after Mr. Khrushchev's announcement that the U-2 had been shot down, which led to the issuance of conflicting statements.